

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 47

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 8 September 1970

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918, and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:



Staff Sergeant *Robert W. Hartsock*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself on 23 February 1969, by conspicuous gallantry in action while serving as section leader with the 44th Infantry Platoon, 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division in Hau Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam. On this date, when the Dau Tieng Base Camp came under a heavy enemy rocket and mortar attack, Sergeant *Hartsock* and his platoon commander spotted an enemy sapper squad which had infiltrated the camp undetected. Realizing the enemy squad was heading for the brigade tactical operations center and nearby prisoner compound, they concealed themselves and, although heavily outnumbered, awaited the approach of the hostile soldiers. When the enemy was almost upon them, Sergeant *Hartsock* and his platoon commander opened fire on the squad. As a wounded enemy soldier fell, he managed to detonate a satchel charge he was carrying. Sergeant *Hartsock*, with complete disregard for his own life, threw himself on the charge and was gravely wounded. In spite of his wounds, Sergeant *Hartsock* crawled about 5 meters to a ditch and provided heavy suppressive fire, completely pinning down the enemy and allowing his commander to seek shelter. Sergeant *Hartsock* continued his deadly stream of fire until he succumbed to his wounds. Sergeant *Hartsock's* valorous efforts resulted in the disruption of the enemy squad's mission, saved his platoon commander's life and, indirectly, the lives of many other comrades. Sergeant *Hartsock's* extraordinary heroism and profound concern for the lives of his fellow soldiers were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.



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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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